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Phonographic reader....

by Isaac Pitman

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A COURSE OF READING IN  
PHONETIC SHORTHAND.

*IN THE CORRESPONDING STYLE.*

BY ISAAC PITMAN.



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THE

# PHONOGRAPHIC READER:

A COURSE OF READING IN

## Phonetic Shorthand.

*IN THE CORRESPONDING STYLE, WITH A KEY.*

BY ISAAC PITMAN.



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1877.

The "PHONETIC JOURNAL" is published every Saturday, Crown 4to., price 1*d.* [London: Fred. Pitman, 20 Paternoster row. Bath: Isaac Pitman.] This work, the organ of the Phonetic Society, is edited by Isaac Pitman, Inventor of Phonography, and circulates 10,000 copies weekly. It contains six columns of Short-hand, with Key in common print; and Intelligence of the progress of Phonography and the Spelling Reform in Great Britain, the United States, Australia, etc. A list of the names of new Members of the Phonetic Society is published in each number. The members of this Society correct the Exercises of learners through the post free of charge. The Journal also contains articles in phonetic print on interesting subjects.

P684  
1877

## P R E F A C E .

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THE student of Phonography, when taking this little book in hand, is supposed to have thoroughly mastered the "Phonographic Teacher," and to have read through the Phonographic edition of "Æsop's Fables in Words of One Syllable."

The grammalogues here employed will be found on pp. 40, 41 of the "Manual of Phonography" and in the "Compend of Phonography," 1d. The "contracted words" on page 54 of the "Manual" are also used, as well as easy Phraseography.

This book can be used in a two-fold way—as a *reading* exercise and as a *writing* exercise. As a *reading* exercise the student should follow the shorthand page, referring to the Key only in the case of a word which he cannot decipher. As a *writing* exercise he is recommended to copy the Key into shorthand, taking particular care to draw the characters slowly and neatly, putting in the vowels carefully, and in their proper positions. Thus only can he lay the foundation of a legible, clear, and in the end, a *rapid* style of shorthand. Having done his best, without looking at the shorthand in the book, he should compare his writing with the printed shorthand, correct whatever mistakes he may have made, and re-write the exercise with special care. Each anecdote, one at a time, should be taken up by him in this way.

Should a further course of this practice be found necessary, the weekly *Phonetic Journal*, 1d., obtainable through any bookseller, is recommended, where shorthand exercises with Key, similar to those here given, will be found; and also a briefer style, (with Key,) leading the student on, step by step, to the possession of a style of writing as rapid as speech, and as legible as a printed book.

The anecdotes are taken from "Short Stories for School and Home Reading," published by Messrs Chambers,—an admirable book for young people.

ISAAC PITMAN.

*Phonetic Institute, Bath, September, 1875.*

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## CURING A BLIND ELEPHANT.

## CURING A BLIND ELEPHANT.

An elephant belonging to an Indian officer had a disease of the eyes, and had been blind for three days. Its owner asked a physician if he could do anything for the relief of the animal. The doctor said that he was willing to try, on one of the eyes, the effect of caustic, a remedy commonly used for diseases of the human eye. The animal was made to lie down, and the caustic was applied to its eye, but the acute pain which ensued caused the elephant to give a terrific scream. The effect, however, was wonderful, for the eye was in a great degree restored, and the elephant could partially see. In consequence of this, next day the doctor was ready to do the same to the other eye. When the animal was brought, and heard the doctor's voice, it lay down of itself, placed its head quietly on one side, curled up its trunk, and drew in its breath like a human being about to go through a painful operation. When the operation was over, by shaking its trunk and other gestures, it gave evident signs of wishing to show its thankfulness for the cure performed by the doctor.

## GOD'S WAY IS BEST.

## GOD'S WAY IS BEST.

A merchant was riding home from a fair, and had a bag containing a large sum of money behind him. It began to rain very heavily, and he was drenched to the skin. He was considerably annoyed at this, and grumbled very much that God had given him such wet weather for his journey. He was passing through a thick forest, when, to his great terror, a robber rushed out, and presenting his gun at him, drew the trigger. He would certainly have been shot, but the rain had damped the powder, and the gun would not go off. The merchant immediately struck the spurs into his horse, and happily escaped. When he was in safety, he said to himself: "What a fool I was to complain about the bad weather. If the sky had been bright, and the air pure and dry, I should now be lying dead, and my children would wait in vain for their father's return. The rain, at which I murmured, saved both my property and my life. I will try and profit by this lesson, and remember in future that whatever God sends is best."

## A DEAD MAN DINING.

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِنْ حَسَدٍ فَلَا يُؤْتَهُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُعَذِّبَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِنْ حَسَدٍ فَلَا يُؤْتَهُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُعَذِّبَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ

## A DEAD MAN DINING.

In a lunatic asylum, among the more remarkable patients was one who was with much difficulty saved from inflicting death upon himself, by refusing to take any food. He was under the impression that he was dead, and declared that dead people never eat. It was obvious to all that the issue must soon be fatal, if no plan was found out to disabuse him of the absurd notion. The humane doctor resident in the establishment be-thought him of the following stratagem to save the madman's life : He got half-a-dozen of the attendants dressed up in white shrouds, and their faces and hands rubbed with chalk, so as to resemble dead men. He then made them march in single file, with death-like silence, into a room adjoining that of the patient, where they sat down to a hearty meal. The door was purposely left open, that the man who thought he was dead might see them. "Hollo !" cried he presently to an attendant, " who are these ?" " Dead men," was the reply. " What !" said he, " do dead men eat ?" " To be sure they do, as you see," answered the attendant. " If that's the case, then," cried he, " I'll join them, for I'm starving." In this way the spell was instantly broken, and the patient saved from death by voluntary starvation.

## HONESTY.

## HONESTY.

A merchant was once traveling through a part of Russia which was very thinly peopled. On the road he arrived one night at the hut of a peasant, and, being pleased with the man, took up his quarters with him. In the morning, after having resumed his journey, he found that he had lost his purse, containing about one hundred pieces of gold. The peasant's son, while out hunting, found the purse ; but instead of lifting it, he went and told his father about its discovery. He was equally unwilling to touch it, and told his son to cover it with some bushes, to see if the owner would turn up. A few months after this the traveler returned, and stayed at the same hut, but the peasant did not recognise him. While talking together, the merchant happened to mention the loss he had sustained on his former journey. The peasant listened very attentively, and when he had heard all the particulars of the loss, he said, " My son will show you the spot where your purse lies. No hand has touched it but the one which covered it, that you might recover what you have lost." They went together to the place where the money was, and the traveler was filled with joy on recovering the money, which he had never expected to find.

## THE CLEVER SPIDER.

## THE CLEVER SPIDER.

A gentleman who was fond of studying the habits of insects, one day found a large spider near a pond of water. He took a long stick, and put the spider on one end of it. He then went to the side of the pond, and stretching out as far as he could, fixed the other end in the bottom of the pond, and left the stick standing straight up out of the water, with the spider upon it. He then sat down on the bank to watch what the insect would do. It first went down the stick till it came to the water, but finding that there was no hope of getting off there, it returned to the top. It then went up and down the different sides of the stick, feeling and looking carefully, till it found there was no way of escape at any part. Then it went once more to the top, and remained quiet for a while, as if thinking what to do. After a short pause, the insect began to spin a thread, long enough to reach from the stick to the edge of the pond ; when this was done, it fastened one end of the thread to the top of the stick, and let the rest of it float in the breeze. It waited till the wind stretched the thread out towards the side of the pond. The insect then went crawling along the thread till it reached the end. After floating in the air a little while, it alighted safely on the ground, and scampered off to its home.

## SAVED BY SMOKE.

## SAVED BY SMOKE.

During a violent storm a vessel was driven upon a rock on the coast of Patagonia, and dashed to pieces by the waves. It was at first supposed that all the crew had perished, but a letter was afterwards received from one of them, telling how he alone had escaped. He had managed to swim to an uninhabited island, where he lived for a time on some biscuits that had been washed ashore from the wreck, wild herbs which grew in the island, and some sea fowl which he killed with a stick. Happening to have matches with him, he succeeded in kindling a fire, which he fed with turf. To make his fire burn well, he partly surrounded it with some planks which he had picked up among the rocks. One night, when he was asleep, the wind blew these planks into the fire, and they were burned. He thought this a terrible misfortune, but it was the means of saving him. An American ship happened to be passing ten miles off, and the captain, seeing the volumes of smoke rising from a desert island, sent some of his men to see what was the cause of it. They found the poor fellow crouching over his half-extinguished fire, and on hearing his story, took him on board their own vessel.

## THE CANINE PATIENTS.

## THE CANINE PATIENTS.

A large dog was running about on a road near a country village, when a carriage went over one of his paws. He howled most piteously, and some farriers who were at work in a shop close by came out to see what was the matter. One of them, noticing that the poor animal was much hurt, took him up, dressed the bruised paw, and wrapped it up, and then let him go. The dog went home, where he remained for some days. At length, his paw becoming painful, he returned to the farrier's, and holding it up, moaned to show that it pained him. The farrier dressed it again, and the dog, after licking his hand as a sign of gratitude, returned home ; and in a few days the injured paw was whole. Some months afterwards, the same dog was frolicking with another, and a similar accident happened to his companion. Taking him at once by the ear, he led him away to the farrier's shop where he himself had been so well doctored. The workmen were much amused at the sagacity of the animal, and paid as much attention to the new patient as they had done to the former one, and with as good results.

## THE PRESENCE OF MIND.

## PRESENCE OF MIND.

Sir James Thornhill, a famous painter, was employed in decorating the interior of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. One day, while he was painting, he wished to see how his work looked at a distance. For this purpose he moved backwards from it along the scaffolding, until he reached the very edge. If he had taken another step, he would have fallen over and been dashed to pieces on the pavement below. His servant at this moment observed his danger, and in an instant threw a paint brush at the picture. The painter immediately rushed forward to chastise the man for spoiling the painting. When the reason for his strange act was explained, however, Sir James could not thank him enough, or sufficiently admire his ready ingenuity. If the servant had called out to tell him of his danger, the startled painter would perhaps have lost his footing and been killed. By destroying his workmanship, the servant gave the painter a motive to return from the edge of the scaffold, in his desire to save the picture. This servant possessed that valuable quality, presence of mind, and had the satisfaction of knowing that he had, by his coolness and ingenuity, saved his master's life.

## AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

## AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

A few years ago, a sailor, entering a menagerie, was surprised to observe a tiger very much agitated at his approach, and always becoming more violent the nearer he came to its cage. The keeper, to whom he pointed out the circumstance, remarked that the animal was either greatly pleased or very angry at something. Upon this, the sailor went up close to the den, when the tiger lashed its sides with its tail, and roared frightfully. On a nearer inspection, he discovered that it was a tiger which had been brought home to this country, a few years before, under his especial care. Jack was as highly delighted as the tiger was, in thus recognising his old friend, and asked permission to enter the cage, as he said, for the purpose of "shaking a fist" with the beautiful animal. The iron door was opened, and in he jumped, to the delight of himself and the tiger, and the astonishment of the onlookers. The animal showed its affection by caressing and licking his old acquaintance, whom he welcomed with every sign of affection. When the honest tar left the den, the grief of the poor animal seemed almost insupportable.

## DECEIVING AN ELEPHANT.

## DECEIVING AN ELEPHANT.

A person in the Island of Ceylon often sat at the door of his house, near a place where elephants were daily led to water. He used sometimes to give one of them some fig-leaves, of which elephants are very fond. One day the man took it into his head to play the elephant a trick. He wrapped a stone round with fig-leaves, and said to the driver, "This time I will give him a stone to eat, and see how it will agree with him." The driver told him that the elephant would not be so easily taken in as he seemed to think. The man, however, did give the elephant the packet containing the stone covered with fig-leaves, but as soon as the animal touched it with his trunk he let it fall to the ground. "You see," said the keeper, "I was right;" and, without further remark, he went on his way. After the elephants were watered, the keeper was leading them back to the stable. The man who had played the elephant the trick was still sitting before his door. Before he was aware, the animal ran at him, threw his trunk around his body, and dashing him to the ground, trampled him to death.

## AN INGENIOUS DOG.

## AN INGENIOUS DOG.

At a convent in France, twenty poor people were served with dinner at a certain hour every day. A dog belonging to the convent was always present at this meal, watching for any scraps that might be thrown to him. The guests being very hungry themselves, and not very charitable, the poor dog did little more than smell the food of which he would fain have partaken. As each pauper approached, he rang a bell, and his share was delivered to him through a small opening, so that neither giver nor receiver could see each other. One day the dog waited till all were served, when he took the rope in his mouth and rang the bell. The trick succeeded, and was repeated next day with the same success. At length the cook, finding that twenty-one portions were doled out instead of twenty, determined to find out the thief; and at last he was watched and detected. But when the monks heard the story, they rewarded the dog's ingenuity by allowing him to ring the bell every day, and a mess of broken victuals was henceforth regularly served out to him in his turn.

## A GALLANT RESCUE.

## A GALLANT RESCUE.

The horse can swim, when necessary, as well as most other animals, although he is not particularly fond of the water. Some years ago a vessel was driven upon the rocks on the coast of the Cape of Good Hope, and most of the crew were drowned. Those who survived were seen from the shore clinging to different pieces of the wreck, but the sea ran so high that no boat could venture out to their assistance. Meanwhile, a planter had come from his farm to be a spectator of the shipwreck. His heart was melted at the sight of the poor sailors, and knowing the bold spirit of his horse, and his excellency as a swimmer, he determined to make a desperate effort for their deliverance. Having blown a little brandy into his horse's nostrils, he pushed out into the midst of the breakers. At first they both disappeared, but it was not long before they floated to the surface and swam up to the wreck. He soon brought two of the crew safe to the shore, each of them holding on by one of his boots. This was repeated no less than seven times, and he saved fourteen lives. On his return the eighth time, however, being much fatigued, and meeting a tremendous wave, he lost his balance and sank in a moment. The horse swam safely to land, but its gallant rider rose no more.

## THE TAME TIGER,

## THE TAME TIGER.

A gentleman in India nearly lost his life, on one occasion, through a tame tiger which he had. He had got it when it was quite young, and had it so trained that it played about and followed him like a little dog. He was sitting one evening outside his tent reading, while his little pet tiger lay stretched on the ground close beside him. With one hand he held his book, while the other hung loose by his side. The tiger began to lick his hand, and continued to do so for some time. A low growl made the gentleman turn his head and look down. He saw that his hand was covered with blood. In an instant he knew that the fatal instinct of the animal had awoke, and that if he withdrew his hand, the tiger, having now tasted blood, would at once spring upon him. Seeing his servant at a little distance, he called to him to bring his loaded gun and shoot the tiger dead on the spot. The gentleman sat quite still, allowing the tiger to growl and lick the blood at his pleasure. The moments thus spent seemed to him a very long time indeed. At length, however, the servant brought the gun, approached very stealthily, so as not to disturb the animal, took a steady aim, and shot it through the heart.

## A WAY TO CATCH TIGERS.

## A WAY TO CATCH TIGERS.

In some parts of India which are infested by tigers, the natives adopt a curious plan to catch them. They prepare a sort of birdlime, which is wonderfully sticky, and spread it very thickly over broad leaves. Finding out the animal's haunt, they scatter a few hundreds of these smeared leaves about the place, and then retire to a safe distance. So certain are they of their game, that they begin to cut pegs with which to stretch out his skin; nor are they mistaken. The tiger, quite unsuspectingly, comes sauntering along to where the birdlime is scattered, and presently one of the big leaves sticks to his paw. Like all animals of the cat kind, he is very particular about his paws, and tries to shake off the leaf, but in vain. He next tries what good a whisk at the side of his head will do, and thereby gets his whiskers and eyes smeared with the treacly stuff. He loses his temper, rolls himself on the ground, and soon gets covered all over with the sticky leaves. He becomes furious, and bites at them, only making matters worse. His angry roars attract the leaf-spreaders, who cautiously approach the blinded beast, and despatch him by a shower of arrows.

## A NOBLE ACT.

## A NOBLE ACT.

A man who had reached a great age, and amassed much wealth, feeling that his end was near, divided his property among his three sons. Thereafter he set aside a jewel of great value, which he determined to give to that one of his sons who should within three months perform the most noble act. "Father," said the eldest one day, "a person lately entrusted me with a large sum of money. Being quite a stranger to me, and having no acknowledgment from me in writing, I might easily have appropriated the money; but when he asked it back from me, I gave him the whole, and refused his offers of remuneration." The father replied, "Yours was an act of justice." The second son said, "I was walking along the edge of a lake when a child fell in. At the risk of my life I plunged in, and brought it safely to its distressed mother on the shore. Was that not a noble act, father?" "No, my son; it was but the instinct of human kindness." The youngest son then said, "One dark night I found my mortal enemy asleep on the edge of a precipice. The slightest movement on waking would have plunged him down the fearful abyss. I took care to rouse him with proper caution, and directed him to a place of safety." "My dearest son," said the father, "the jewel is thine."

## THE THREE ROGUES.

## THE THREE ROGUES.

A Brahmin went to the market to buy a goat. Three thieves saw him carrying the animal on his back, and formed a plan to get it for themselves. They stationed themselves at intervals on the road along which he had to travel. When the Brahmin approached, the first thief said, "Why do you carry a dog on your back? are you not ashamed?" He said this, because a holy man like the Brahmin would be polluted by touching any unclean animal such as the dog. The Brahmin replied, "It is not a dog; it is a goat." A little while after, he met the second thief, who said, "Brahmin, why do you carry a dog on your back? are you not ashamed?" The Brahmin felt perplexed, put the goat down, and examined it. But finding it all right, he took it up again, and walked on. He was soon stopped by the third thief, who put the same question to him as the other two. The Brahmin became frightened, threw down the goat, and went to perform his ablutions for having carried, as the three rogues had now made him believe, an unclean animal. The thieves took the goat and ate it, laughing all the time at the simplicity of the Brahmin, who was so easily imposed upon.

## THE OFFICIOUS MONKEY.

## THE OFFICIOUS MONKEY.

Generally, when a vessel of war enters a harbor, a salute of one or more guns is fired. A man-of-war ship had once been on a long voyage, during which she had touched at several places, and at each of them, on anchoring, a gun had been fired off. No ship is allowed to fire guns when lying at the port of London, lest the firing should break the windows of the houses in the city, or startle the horses in the streets. A monkey that was on board the vessel wondered why a salute was not fired on dropping the anchor in the Thames, and made up his mind to repair the omission by firing the gun himself. Accordingly, when the attention of the crew was taken up with getting the vessel moored in the river, the monkey went to the cooking-stove, and with the tongs took out a piece of burning coal. He then ran off with it, and placed it on the touch-hole of one of the guns, which happened to be loaded. Immediately the gun went off, and the whole neighbourhood was startled by the loud report of the cannon. The captain was tried for breaking the rules of the harbor, but got clear on proving that the cannon had been fired by the monkey.

## CRIME DETECTED.

## CRIME DETECTED.

The attachment of the dog to his master, united to an unfailing memory, has led to some remarkable disclosures of crime, of which the following instance is given by an ancient author: A Roman slave was murdered during the civil wars, but no one knew by whom the crime was perpetrated. His dog guarded the body, and fought in its defence, so that no one dared to touch it. King Pyrrhus, traveling that way, observed the animal watching over the corpse, and learning that he had been there three days without meat or drink, the king ordered the body to be buried and the dog preserved and brought to him. A review of the troops took place a few days afterwards, and every soldier had to march past the king. The dog lay quietly by the king's side for some time, but on seeing the murderers of his late master pass by, he flew upon them with extraordinary fury, barking, and tearing their clothes. This excited the king's suspicion, and the men were seized. They confessed the crime, and were immediately ordered for execution.

## THE FOX AND THE MILK.

## THE FOX AND THE MILK.

A tame fox that was kept in a farmyard was on good terms with the dogs, but he could never induce the cats to come near him. Cats have a keen scent, and dislike the smell of a fox. These cats always kept as far from the fox as they could. But Reynard revenged himself for the slight put upon him, by cheating the cats out of their meals. When their allowance of milk was put into the dish, he would run to the spot and walk round the saucer, after which none of the cats would approach the polluted place. Time after time the cats were in this way deprived of their milk ; but the trick having been discovered, the milk was put beyond the fox's reach. Reynard, however, fell upon another plan to obtain it. The milkmaid was in the habit of passing near the yard where the fox was kept. As she passed, he contrived to brush himself against one of her pails, which so tainted the milk, that it had to be given to himself. He did this several times ; but when he saw the tainted milk given to the pigs and not to him, he abandoned the practice.

## A MISER'S DEATH.

## A MISER'S DEATH.

A French gentleman by grinding the face of the poor, had amassed an enormous fortune. His great wealth was known to the government, and he was ordered to pay them a very large sum by a certain day. He said he could not send in so much money, for he was very poor. He was afraid lest some of his neighbours might tell how rich he was ; he therefore resolved to hide his treasure where nobody would find it. He dug a cave in his wine-cellar so large and deep that he could go down with a ladder. At the entrance he fixed a door with a spring-lock, which, on shutting, would fasten of itself. After a time the gentleman was missing, and although search was made everywhere, he could not be found. At last his house was sold, and when the man who bought it came upon the door in the cellar, he broke it open, and found the miser lying dead on the ground, with a candle-stick beside him. On further search, his vast wealth was found carefully concealed. He had probably gone into the cave to see if his money was all right, and, by accident, the door had closed, shutting him in. No person had heard his cries for help, and he had perished from want of food. In his hunger he had eaten the candle and gnawed the flesh off both his arms.

## A REASONING FOX.

## A REASONING FOX.

A huntsman in Norway one day observed a fox cautiously approaching the stump of an old tree. When near enough, the fox jumped up on to the top of it, and after looking round a while, hopped down to the ground again. After Reynard had repeated this feat several times, he went his way. In a short time he returned to the spot, carrying in his mouth a pretty large and heavy piece of wood. As if to test his vaulting powers, he renewed his leaps on to the stump, keeping the stick in his mouth. Finding that, even with this weight, he could jump up quite easily, he dropped the piece of wood, and coiling himself up on the top of the stump, remained motionless as if dead. Some time after, an old sow, with a number of young ones, came out of the wood, and passed the spot where the fox lay. Two of the little pigs having fallen behind the others, the fox pounced down on one of them, seized it in his mouth, and sprang up again to his tree-stump. On hearing her little one cry, the old sow came rushing back to its assistance, and spent the greater part of the night in vain attempts to reach Reynard. He, however, took the matter very coolly, devouring his prey under the very nose of its mother; which was at length obliged to move off without being able to revenge herself.

## A BRAVE DOG.

## A BRAVE DOG.

A vessel was once driven, by a storm, upon the coast of Kent. The waves were beating violently against the wreck, and she was sure to go to pieces very soon. The crew, consisting of eight men, took to the rigging, and were calling for help; but the waves were so high that no boat could be launched to try and save their lives. A crowd of people assembled on the shore, and among them a gentleman, accompanied by his large Newfoundland dog. Fastening a line to a short stick, he put the stick in the dog's mouth, and told him to swim to the ship. The dog at once understood his meaning, and sprang into the sea, fighting his way through the foaming waves. He could not get near enough to give the men the stick he had in his mouth; so they made fast a rope to another piece of wood, and threw it towards the dog. He immediately dropped his own piece, and seized the one the sailors threw to him. With much difficulty he swam back through the surge and delivered it to his master. By this means a line of communication was formed with the vessel, and every man on board was pulled ashore safe and sound.

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